

WRITEBOSTON

THEORY OF CHANGE

Context: High percentage of BPS high school students with poor writing skills

- Average of 1-3 grades behind in writing
- High MCAS failure rates

Program Sites: Boston Community Leadership Academy Monument High School Odyssey High School

CORE PRINCIPLES

**Motivation --
Students have to
want to write**

**Volume – Students
have to practice
writing**

**Knowledge & Skill
– Students have to
know what good
writing is and how
to produce it**

STRATEGIES

**WriteBoston will heighten
awareness and excitement around
writing**

- Author visits
- Writing events
- Publishing opportunities
- Citywide teen newspaper

**WriteBoston will create new,
engaging avenues for writing**

- Writing across curriculum
- Pen Pal programs
- Writing mentors through business
& university partnerships
- After school programs

**WriteBoston will work with schools
to improve writing instruction**

- Coach-led professional
development
- Data-driven instruction
- Curriculum development
- Focus on academic writing
supports

INTERMEDIATE CHANGE

**Students report improved attitude
toward writing, enjoyment of writing,
or interest in writing hobbies or
careers**

- Student attitudinal survey recording
writing habits & attitudes

**Data shows increase in quantity of
“quality” student writing
assignments, new writing forums, and
number of students published**

- Data recording number of writing
activities each student completed
- Samples of student writing to
determine increase in length and
amount of writing

**Teachers report change in writing
focus in classroom**

- Teacher interviews measuring
confidence in teaching writing
- Attendance & investment in
professional development
- WriteBoston curriculum and
protocols created & documented
- School-wide writing prompts used
as teaching and learning tool

OUTCOME

**Improved Writing
Skills**

Measured by student
gains on school-based
writing assessments
and MCAS

